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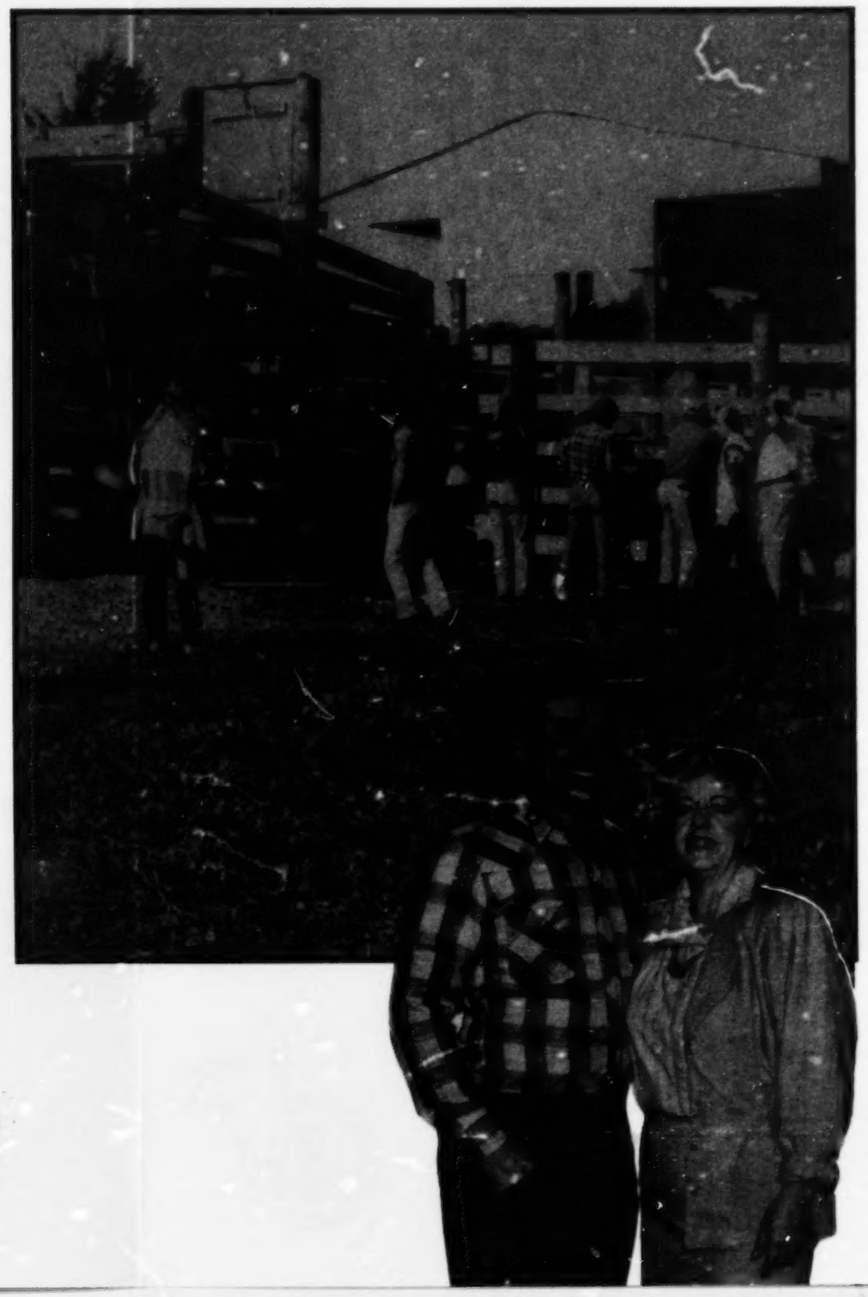
THE EAST'S FIRST WILD HORSE AND BURRO ADOPTION CENTER

Outside the town of Cross Plains, Tennessee, 30 miles north of Nashville and within a day's drive of most eastern states, you'll find the east's first waystation for wild horses and burros gathered on public lands out west. The Southeastern Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Center in Cross Plains is a part of the Adopt-a-Horse and Burro Program of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The adoption program is a partial solution to the problem of overpopulation among wild horse and burro herds that roam public rangelands in several western states. As symbols of America's frontier heritage, the animals are protected by the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971, as amended.

But wild horses and burros seldom have the range all to themselves. They usually share limited forage and water with native wildlife as well as domestic livestock. Livestock use is controlled through grazing leases, and state-controlled sport hunting helps hold wildlife populations in check. But to balance wild horses and burros with their habitat needs, the most humane approach is to capture a number determined by habitat studies to be in excess of those



the range can support in a healthy condition. These animals are then made available to qualified individuals for adoption.

One way in which BLM makes it easier for people to participate in the adoption program is to bring the animals east. When the Cross Plains center opened in 1979, it was the first facility to make wild horse and burro adoptions convenient for people east of the Mississippi River. A second year-round center was opened in 1982 in Lewisberry, Pennsylvania, and a third center located in London, Ohio opened in 1988. These centers serve the northeast and mid-western states.

The adoption center in Cross Plains is a family operation, built and operated for BLM's Eastern States Office by Randall and Paula Carr. They and their family built the corrals on acreage farmed by the Carrs for most of 30 years. In addition to operating the center, the Carrs have become foster parents to several wild horses and burros.

Every few weeks or so -- except when gathering is suspended during foaling in the spring -- BLM ships a truckload of wild horses or burros to the center where the Carrs care for the animals until their new guardians arrive. Most of the horses arriving at Cross Plains come from Nevada, Wyoming, and Oregon. The burros come from California and Arizona.

ADOPTING IS A SPECIAL CHALLENGE

Although they have been on the range for generations, wild horses and burros are the descendants of domestic stock; with care and patience they can be tamed and used for riding , breeding, showing, farmwork, or any other similar noncommercial purpose. Residents of the United States who are at least 18 years old may apply for up to four animals per year.

The main requirements of adopters are that they have adequate facilities for horses and burros, and that they treat the animals humanely. The Government retains ownership of the animals for at least the first 12 months following the adoption, but at the end of that period the adopter may obtain title.

Some people who come to the Cross Plains facility have been screened in advance after submitting an application to BLM. Others just drop by out of curiosity and wind up adopting. Applicants can be screened on the spot, so persons who are interested in the adoption program are encouraged to call the Carrs at (615) 654-2180 for an appointment, or visit Fridays through Sundays, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. After being approved, applicants select their animals from among those on hand at the center, complete the necessary paperwork, pay the adoption fee, and back up their trucks or trailers to the specially-designed loading chute, where adoption center staff halter the animals and load them for the journey home.

The adoption fee at the center is $125 for each horse and $75 for each burro, payable by money order or other guaranteed remittance to BLM. The fee helps reimburse the Government for the cost of gathering, feeding, veterinary care and administrative processing.

Before the animals are shipped east, all are Coggins tested, paste wormed, and inoculated against VEE, WEE, EEE, rhinopneumonitis, tetanus, and influenza.

Additional details and applications for adopting a wild horse or burro are available from BLM's Eastern States Office, or directly from the Cross Plains adoption center.

ADOPTING: WHAT TO EXPECT AND WHAT IS REQUIRED

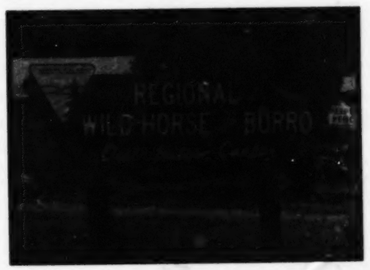
When fully grown, wild horses weigh from 800 -1,000 pounds, and generally stand 14 - 15 "hands" high. Fully grown wild burros usually weigh from 400 - 600 pounds, and measure 10 -12 hands. Both horses and burros come in a variety of colors. They need a minimum of 2 1/2 pounds of hay daily for each 100 pounds of body weight, plus some grain, salt, and sufficient water. BLM requires that adopters' facilities include an adequate shelter, along with corral space measuring approximately 20' x 20' or more for each animal. Fencing should be made of wood or pipe, and stand at least 6' high for horses and 5' high for burros. Barbed wire and large mesh fencing are dangerous to the animals and are not acceptable.

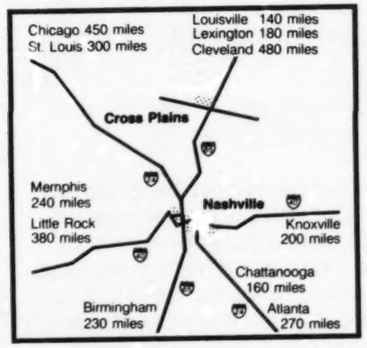
SATELLITE CENTERS: ADDED CONVENIENCE FOR ADOPTERS

Two or three times each month, BLM's Eastern States Office conducts "satellite" wild horse and burro adoption events at various locations throughout the east. Two or three truckloads of wild horses or burros are shipped to a suitable facility that BLM has rented for the 2 or 3 day event. People from the surrounding area may apply in advance to adopt the animals, or visit the satellite center and apply there. Satellite centers allow BLM to bring the animals closer to people who otherwise might not be able to adopt. Telephone the Eastern States Office at **(703) 461-1300** for upcoming dates and locations.

DIRECTIONS TO THE ADOPTION CENTER

From Nashville, take Route I-65 north to Exit 112. Turn west and drive approximately 4 miles to Cross Plains. Continue another mile past town, turn right at Carr-Couts Road, and continue 1 more mile. The adoption center is on the left. The Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Center is open from **8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Fridays through Sundays (or by appointment)**, and you are welcome to visit. Since roundups of wild horses and burros are suspended at certain times, visitors should call ahead to be sure the center is open and animals are on hand. Special arrangements may be made for visits by civic, school, church, and other groups. Call Paula Carr at **(615) 654-2180**.





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for the people who live in the Island Territories under U.S. administration.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

An agency of the Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is responsible for the administration of the public lands and their various resources.

Policy and Management Act of 1976, which established the policy that the public lands will be retained under federal ownership and managed in the public interest under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield.

BLM administers some 272 million acres of public lands -- approximately 175 million acres in the lower 48 States and 97 million acres in Alaska -- amounting to about one-fifth of the Nation's total land base. Through the sale of oil and gas leases, grazing rights, timber, minerals, and other raw materials and energy sources, the public lands are a substantial source of income to the Federal Treasury. The economy of many communities -- particularly in the West -- is based on activities stemming from the sale or lease of these resources.

EASTERN STATES OFFICE

BLM programs in the 31 states adjoining or east of the Mississippi River are the responsibility of BLM's Eastern States Office, headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia. Day-to-day operations are the responsibility of district offices located in Jackson, Mississippi, and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Public lands under BLM jurisdiction in the east amount to some 30,000 acres of surface (located primarily in the states of Minnesota, Louisiana and Florida); approximately 2,800 islands; approximately 33 million acres of Federal Mineral Ownership underlying private surface, state lands and federal surface under the jurisdiction of other Federal agencies such as the Forest Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Department of Defense; and an undetermined quantity of public lands, mostly adjoining rivers and coastlines, that were omitted from original surveys.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Eastern States Office
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